(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has reiterated that all bilateral issues between India and Pakistan are to be discussed between the two countries and that there is no role for third party intervention regarding Jammu & Kashmir.

US and China have issued a Joint Statement on South Asia. Government conveyed its reaction to the Joint Statement in the Statement of Official Spokesman issued on 27.06.1998, which categorically rejects this approach as completely unacceptable.

Transit routes through Bangladesh to North-Eastern States

2492. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for a transit route for passenger and trade through Bangladesh in Tripura and other parts of North-East;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to get the transit route opened;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh for a passage to Chittagong port; and

(d) the reaction of Government of Bangladesh to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India has a limited transit facilaity through Bangladesh under the provisions of the India-Bangladesh Waterways Transit & Trade Protocol (IWT & TP) which has been in operation since 1972. However, Government have made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for overland transit facilities for passenger and freight traffic. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals.

Pak Response to the resolution adopted at P-5 meeting

2493. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Pakistan's response to the resolution adopted at the P-5 meeting at Geneva held in first week of June 1998 to the effect that this marked the beginning of international involvement in the Indian sub Continent and that bilsteral on issues like Kashmir needed to be supplemented by a broader multilateral process to promote durable peace in South Asia; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response to the Pak-reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have seen Pakistan's response to the joint communiaqe issued at the conclusion of the P-5 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Geneva on 4 June, 1998.

(b) There is no place for any international or third party involvement of any kind whatsoever in bilateral issues between India and Pakistan. This view has been reiterated through official statements, as also in interaction with all concerned at the political and diplomatic levels. India remains firmly committed to carrying forward the process of bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues.

Visit of High Level Team from Oman

2494. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level team from Oman had visited India recently;
(b) if so, the prime objectives of their visit;